

**Eucerceris fulviceps Cresson, var. rhodops, new variety.**

Scutellum entirely black (red in the typical form, which is also from New Mexico).

♀. Length about 14 mm.; head red, face yellow; thorax black, marked with yellow; abdomen lemon yellow above, sutures red and black, apical segment black; venter with basal two thirds red, apical third black; legs red; wings dark fuliginous. Mandibles with a very large tooth within near base; clypeus excavated and extremely narrow, leaving a large space between clypeus and mandibles; middle of clypeus with a long marginal tooth directed anteriorly; antennæ with the first four joints red, the rest black; base of metathorax strongly transversely grooved, with a longitudinal median groove; sides of the enclosure with two long yellow marks converging caudad; pygidium broad, rugose, rounded at end. Eyes in life deep red.

A most beautiful and peculiar species. One, Pecos, N. M., at flowers of *Eriogonum*, Aug. 19, 1903 (Wilmatte P. Cockerell).

**Eucerceris rubripes, Cresson.**

Highrolls, N. M., June 3, 1902 (Viereck); Santa Fé, N. M., August (Cockerell, 3,984); Glorieta, N. M., Aug. 23, 1903 (Cockerell). The eyes of the male in life are green suffused with red.

**Eucerceris canaliculata (Say).**

Las Cruces, N. M. (C. H. T. Townsend); Alamogordo, N. M., eleven, May 13, 1902 (Viereck).

The two following occur in New Mexico, but are not contained in the collection before us:

**Eucerceris zonatus (Say).**

Mesilla Valley.

**Eucerceris fulvipes Cresson**

Las Vegas.

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**Class I, HEXAPODA.****Order II, COLEOPTERA.****CATERPILLARS ATTACKED BY HISTERS.**

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The following observations on caterpillars being attacked by North American species of *Hister* may be of interest from the fact that the manuals of entomology generally give the student the impression that the Histeridæ are scavengers only. Some make the statement without

reserve, others state that Histers are found about decaying substances, under bark and in ants' nests without saying what they feed on. In the Cambridge Natural History Dr. Sharp writes: "Formerly it was supposed that the insects were nourished on the decaying substances, but it is now believed, with good reason, that they are eminently predaceous in both larval and imaginal instars, and devour the larvæ of Diptera, etc." Ganglbauer fills in this "etc.," as far as caterpillars are concerned, by saying that the European *Hister pustulosus* attacks the caterpillars of *Agrotis*.

On May 29, 1903, when several of the members of the New York Entomological Society were at Fort Montgomery, on the Hudson, we walked along a woodpath at the base of Bear Mountain. There was but a subdued light, as the woods were thick and the morning cloudy. At the base of a large tree I discovered a caterpillar (an immature noctuid larva) about an inch long that had been seized on its back near its anal extremity by a Hister, which has since been identified as *H. interruptus* Beauv. The beetle's jaws were firmly fastened into the caterpillar, which was making off as fast as possible, but now and then turning on the Hister and struggling hard to free itself. We watched these struggles for some time, and then bottled the insects for future identification.

This is the only instance in which I have observed the predaceous habit of *Hister*, but I have found the following American records bearing on the subject.

In *Entomologica Americana* for August, 1889, Mr. Charles Liebeck writes of a collecting trip at Westville, N. J. He says: "On the same day I noticed an unusual carnivorous inclination on the part of a single *Hister biplagiatus*. Its victim was a smooth caterpillar about one and one quarter inch long, which it had seized on top of the second segment, burying its head beneath the skin, after the manner of a tick. For fully fifteen minutes I watched them, during which time the unlucky caterpillar's frantic struggles failed to dislodge its assailant, who never once relaxed the grip of its jaws. By this time the caterpillar was covered with the juice oozing from its wound, and having satisfied myself of the intention of the *Hister*, I consigned them both to the alcohol bottle for future reference. My previous knowledge of the habits of this *Hister* has been confined to the droppings around pig-pens, where it may possibly feed upon the numerous larvæ found in such places."

In *Insect Life* for October, 1891, Mr. D. W. Coquillett, writing from Los Angeles, Cal., under date of June 8, 1891, says: "All of the authors which I have been able to consult upon the habits of Histeridæ (Packard, Harris, Le Baron, and Horn) state that these insects live in excrements, in decayed animal or vegetable matter, beneath the bark of trees, in ants' nests, and so on, but none of them even so much as hint at their predaceous habits. A few weeks ago I saw an adult *Hister sexstriatus* Lec. attack a nearly full grown larva of *Agrotis ypsilon* Rott., seizing it with its jaws as a cat would a rat and holding on despite the attempts of the cut-worm to escape. This was late in the afternoon of a cloudy day, and as my time was limited, I placed both specimens in my cyanide bottle, where the unequal combat soon terminated."

After an examination of the short-legged Histers one is inclined to the opinion that they stand far greater chance of catching fly larvæ in manure, for instance, than the more active caterpillars of Lepidoptera, and perhaps this accounts for the few observations that have been recorded on the subject.

In conclusion I wish to thank both Mr. Schaeffer and Mr. Leng for passing upon my *Hister interruptus*, and Dr. Dyar for examining the caterpillar.

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## Class I, HEXAPODA.

### Order IV, DIPTERA.

## THE LIFE HISTORY OF CULEX VARIPALPUS COQUILLET.

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(PLATE III.)

As previously reported (Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., VI, 39, 1904), I found this mosquito in eastern British Columbia. It was described from Arizona, so the range seems to be up the Western slope of the Rocky Mountain chain. It is a single brooded species, most nearly allied to *C. atropalpus* Coq. The eggs are laid scattered, singly, adhering to objects at the side of or under the water, but not definitely